

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Rm 2
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Project Title: Lake Merritt Education and Scientific Monitoring

Project Location: San Francisco Bay (entire), Lake Merritt and Glen Echo Creek

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Katharine Noonan, Rotary Nature Center Friends pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for scientific and educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of the Rotary Nature Center Friends educational and scientific sampling of San Francisco Bay and Lake Merritt is to provide educational opportunities for Bay Area students. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture longfin smelt, Chinook salmon, and white sturgeon during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round sampling of coastal marine species through the use of beach seines, purse seines, cast nets, and plankton nets through December 31, 2026.

California Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Katharine Noonan, Rotary Nature Center Friends

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Calif. Code Regs., § 15306, Information Collection, Class 6

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project involves research sampling within San Francisco Bay and Lake Merritt which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to longfin smelt, Chinook salmon, or white sturgeon which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 317-3924

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 7/30/24
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____